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Virginian Tells of UFO Blast-Off From Highway

SOUTH HILL, Va. (AP)—"You can imagine how it felt to see a big thing like that sitting in the road in front of you, and all of a sudden a ball of fire flies out and it disappears."

This was the reaction of a South Hill warehouse manager in describing an Unidentified Flying Object which he said momentarily blocked the road as he was on his way home from work Friday night.

C. N. Crowder, manager of the Mobil Chemical Co. warehouse in this Southside Virginia town near the North Carolina line, said he was driving away from the warehouse about 9 p.m. when he saw the object sitting in the middle of the road.

He described it as looking like a metal storage tank about 12 feet in diameter, aluminum in color, sitting on legs that appeared to be about 3 to 3½ feet high.

"I turned on my bright lights and just about the time I did this, a tremendous burst of white-looking fire came from the bottom of the object and it went right straight up in the air like a bullet.

"It was just a flash and it was gone, but when I had my bright lights on, I got a perfect look at it."

Crowder said the macadam road where the object had been sitting caught on fire. When the fire died down, he said, he went to the police station and reported the incident.

"Two of the town police came back with me," he said. "We found a black burned spot in the road where the thing took off. The spot still in here in the road today."

Crowder said he talked with the driver of another car that had been near the scene and confirmed that "he saw the flash too."